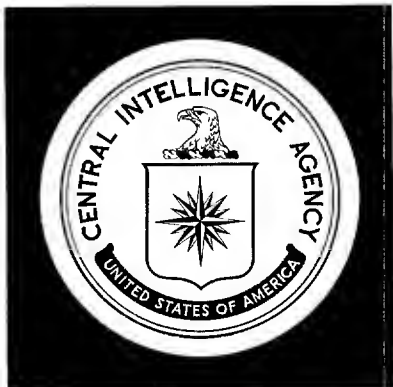


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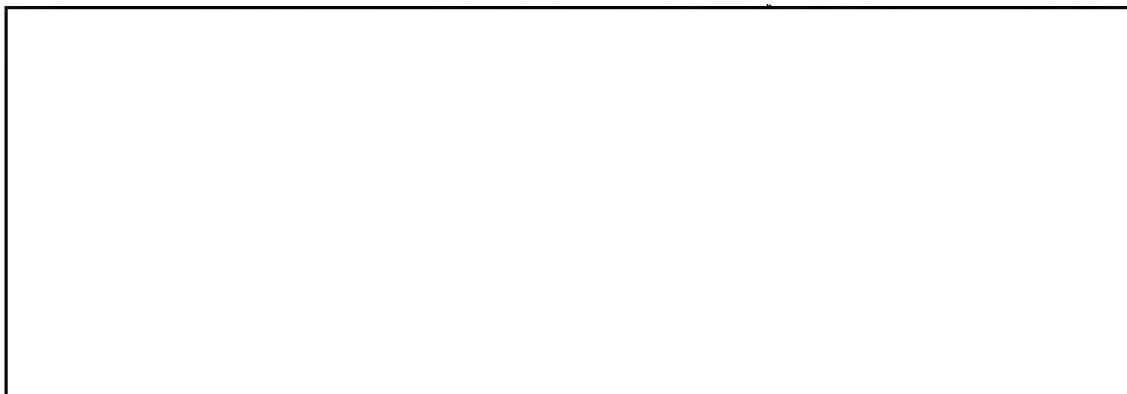
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PANAMA: Torrijos resists compromise on details in canal treaty talks. (Page 6)



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PANAMA: Despite the existence of broad areas of agreement, Torrijos thus far has shown little willingness to compromise on details in the canal treaty talks.

One major stumbling block continues to be Panama's desire to gain effective jurisdiction over the Canal Zone in the shortest possible period of time. The Panamanians have argued that a transition period of only five years was sufficient for the US to phase out all governmental functions not directly pertinent to the operation of the canal. Indeed, on some issues the Panamanians are intent on gaining immediate jurisdiction.

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Panamanian officials still have not given up on the possibility that a draft treaty could be ready for signature by late January. However, Torrijos has maintained his stiff position on jurisdiction despite the reported advice of his negotiators that a longer transition period would be necessary for any agreement. In addition, there as yet have been no detailed discussions on the duration of a new treaty, defense arrangements, and expansion of the present canal--all critical issues.

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